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Glastonbury

A Township: 1693



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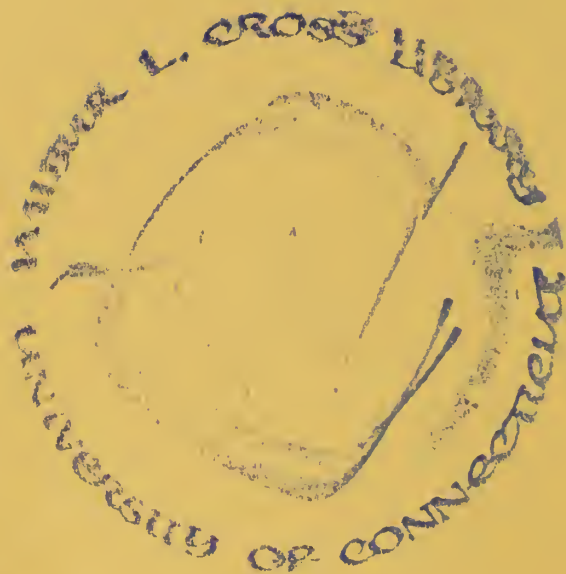
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Glastonbury

A Township: 1693



A REVIEW OF EVENTS LEADING
UP TO GLASTONBURY'S
FINAL SEPARATION FROM
WETHERSFIELD AND
INCORPORATION IN 1693



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Glastonbury

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A REVIEW OF EVENTS LEADING
UP TO GLASTONBURY'S
FINAL SEPARATION FROM
WETHERSFIELD AND
INCORPORATION IN 1693

Published by the Town of Glastonbury
1943

Foreword

THE observance of the Connecticut Tercentenary in 1935 gave rise to a marked awakening on the part of the general public in the rich and colorful history of our state. Glastonbury citizens, entering enthusiastically into this celebration, reviewed the town's past with genuine interest and at the same time brought to light many hitherto unknown or but slightly known phases of local history.

As a result of considerable study then given to the early records, there arose a question as to the exact date of Glastonbury's division from Wethersfield and its establishment as a separate township.

For many years it had been generally accepted that Glastonbury had been set off from Wethersfield in 1690. In fact, the town seal bears the inscription "Incorporated 1690", the highway markers at the entrances of the town and the State Register carry this date, while Chapin, whose history of Glastonbury published in 1854 is well known to local residents, refers to the town's incorporation at several points as occurring in 1690. Many subsequent writers accepted the 1690 date without question.

From evidence in the General Court records and minutes of Glastonbury town meetings, however, it appears evident that the date of our separation from Wethersfield was later than 1690 by several years. With the approach of the town's quarter millennium, a committee consisting of Robert O. Rider, Russell M. McGown and Ray W. Bidwell was appointed by the Historical Society of Glastonbury to review and re-appraise the records in an effort to determine as closely as possible the correct date for the observance of Glastonbury's 250th anniversary. The findings

of this committee, namely that 1693 witnessed the final division from Wethersfield, were presented and accepted at the Annual Meeting of the Society, May 27, 1943. Also at the same meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

A Resolution Offered by the Historical Society of Glastonbury:

The current year, 1943, marks an important anniversary in the annals of the Town of Glastonbury. This date represents the 250th anniversary of this town's becoming a distinct and separate body politic from Wethersfield.

In these troubled times a mere observance of such an event seems inadequate. Rather we should commemorate the history of those men of courage, of fortitude and of Christian ideals who established this town. We should trace the progress of those institutions which they founded. We should rededicate ourselves to their high principles.

One of the most cherished institutions which our forefathers have handed down to us is the town meeting form of government. It seems fitting that a town meeting take action in connection with the forthcoming historical event.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

That this town meeting appoint a general committee of seven to make and carry out plans for a suitable observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Glastonbury; that this committee elect its own chairman; that it be empowered to add to its membership and to appoint sub-committees, and that it coordinate its work with that of civic and other organizations.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GLASTONBURY

May 27, 1943.

This resolution was subsequently presented to and approved at a legally warned town meeting held June 21, 1943 at which time a committee consisting of Ray W. Bidwell, Robert O. Rider, Lee J. Whittles, Laura H. Gorton, Blanche B. Pitney, John Ramaker and Edward A. Behrendt was named to plan an observance of the 250th anniversary of Glastonbury's becoming a town.

As part of the program marking this event, the following monograph, briefly describing the early history of

Wethersfield on the east side of the Connecticut River and citing facts to substantiate the 1693 date of incorporation, has been prepared and published with town funds.

It is hoped that the account of Glastonbury's beginnings will stimulate further study into the many still untouched portions of local history and that similar articles may be published from time to time, either as separate writings, or incorporated in the Annual Report of the town.

The history of Glastonbury is but a segment of the history of our nation and, in these troubled times particularly, a view in retrospect of our forefathers' struggles and accomplishments may well provide the vision which will help carry us on to the creation of a bright, new world where the Four Freedoms will reign supreme for all time.

RAY W. BIDWELL

ROBERT O. RIDER

LEE J. WHITTLES

LAURA H. GORTON

BLANCHE B. PITNEY

JOHN RAMAKER

EDWARD A. BEHRENDT

*Committee for the observance of the 250th
anniversary of the incorporation of Glastonbury.*

Glastonbury

A Township: 1693



EARLY HISTORY

GLASTONBURY, being originally a part of Wethersfield, shares with the latter the distinction of being the oldest English settlement in Connecticut¹. Likewise it can lay claim to two other "firsts": It was the first tract of land in the Colony, *on the east side of the river*², regularly surveyed and laid out in farms; also it was the first town in the state to be formed by dividing another³. Glastonbury's early history, therefore, is linked inseparably with that of Wethersfield.

John Oldham, an Indian trader and scout of long experience from Massachusetts Bay Colony, was probably the first Englishman to set foot on Wethersfield soil⁴. He arrived in the early fall of 1633 to barter with the natives and returned with glowing accounts of the rich lands and opportunities for trade in the Connecticut Valley. Undoubtedly his report spurred on a nucleus of restless and dissatisfied Watertown (Massachusetts) colonists who had been planning to migrate to the territory visited by Oldham. Although the General Court of Massachusetts would not grant them permission to leave in 1634, there is evidence to support the belief that Old-

¹*The Question of Priority of Settlement, as between Wethersfield and Windsor*, monograph by Stiles in Stiles, *Ancient Wethersfield*, 2:867 ff (Appendix I).

²*Original Distribution of the Three-Mile Lots, on the East side of the Connecticut River in Wethersfield*, monograph by Adams in Stiles, *Ancient Wethersfield*, 2:893 (Appendix I).

³*Ibid.*, 2:905.

⁴Stiles, *Ancient Wethersfield*, 1:22ff.

ham and a small party of eight men, apprehensive lest others arrive first in the coveted valley, came to Wethersfield in the fall of 1634¹.

It is supposed that they sowed winter wheat, built rude shelters near the Cove and spent the winter. In the spring of 1635, Oldham returned to Watertown and . . . "very likely his presence once more among the uneasy people instigated the petition which was presented by them to the Court held in Newtown, May 6, 1635, [again] asking leave to remove²." This time, permission for the migration was given and during the summer of 1635, more settlers came to Wethersfield. By 1636, homelots had been apportioned and the Massachusetts Bay Colony had formally recognized the new settlement.

The original purchase of land from the Indians, of which no deed seems to have been given, was a tract extending six miles north and south along the River and running five miles west and three miles east of the River. A second purchase from the Indians in 1673 added an area six miles long and five miles deep to the lands on the east side.

¹Stiles, *op. cit.*, 2:867ff (Appendix I).

²*Ibid.*, p. 869.

FIRST SETTLEMENT ON THE EAST SIDE

Very early after the colonization on the west side of the River, settlers began to filter into the Naubuc Farms, as the east side lands were commonly called¹.

These farms, which extended from Hartford bounds on the north to the vicinity of Roaring Brook on the south, were laid out and apportioned to Wethersfield residents in 1639. Each land holder was given a strip running back from the River three miles and varying in breadth from seven rods to 200 rods (each rod of width representing 6 acres).

It has been generally understood that the varying widths resulted from an attempt on the part of the "sizers" to give all concerned an equitable portion of usable upland, forest and meadow, particularly the latter type of land which was most valuable since it was cleared and ready for pasturage or tillage. While there is strong evidence in support of this supposition², there may have been other factors involved in dividing the "Three-Mile Lots". Possibly some of the large holders purchased the rights of other sharers³. Adams believes "... that the principle adopted was the legal one. To wit:—that the distribution was proportionate to the amounts which the

¹Naubuc is customarily referred to as that area laid out in 1639 or the land from Hartford bounds south to Roaring Brook. Chapin writes, (*Glastonbury For Two Hundred Years*, p. 18), "There is no evidence that the word was used when the whites came here and it does not appear in the records until sometime subsequent [1667] when it is used to describe land on the east side of the 'Great-river'". He believes that the word may have been coined by the Indians, who joined *Nop*, (east) and *Uc*, (locality, place, side) making *Nopuc*, hence *Naubuc*, signifying Lands on the East Side, a term commonly used by the English. An area in the south part of town was generally called *Nayaug* but the action of the General Court, June 22, 1692, naming "the towne at Nabuck, over against Weathersfield, Glassenbury", (see page 14), indicates that the entire territory on the east side was at that time known as *Naubuc*.

²Stiles, *op. cit.*, 2:901.

³*Ibid.*, 2:895.

proprietors (or those representing them) were entitled to by virtue of their respective interests in the purchase price of the township of Wethersfield¹."

It is not known when, where or by whom the first house was built in Glastonbury, but there is no question but what permanent residences were erected soon after the eastern lands were apportioned. The settlers, eager to farm and cut timber on the rich acres here, found the difficulty and inconvenience of crossing a sizeable river sufficient reason for establishing themselves as soon as possible in what was eventually to become Glastonbury.

Thomas Edwards is said to have lived at the north end as early as 1649² and John Hollister had a house at Nayaug in 1651 inhabited by Josiah Gilbert, a tenant³.

THE TREND TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

With the steady movement into the territory east of the Connecticut, it is natural to expect the development of a tendency toward independence and eventual separation. The awakening of a community spirit and the hardship of attending church and town meetings in the parent township, especially in the winter, contributed strongly to Glastonbury's eventual incorporation as a separate township in 1693.

The earliest written record of independent action on the east side of the River is contained in an act of the General Court, May 18, 1653, reading as follows:

"The inhabitants on the East side of the greate River are exempted from training with the Towns on the West side, this present time, and are to meete on the East side as Will: Hill shall

¹Stiles, *op. cit.*, 2:895.

²Ibid., 2:904.

³Ibid., 2:901.

appoint and traine their together, and so to continue on their training days untill the Courte take further order: & Will: Hill is to returne the names of those that doe not meete according to appointment, as notis shall be given them¹."

Following this decree of the Court, there are no written records of importance pertaining to the incorporation of Glastonbury until the year 1689. During the interim it is presumed that settlement continued apace, possibly with some retardation caused by King Philips' War of 1675-76 when all outlying groups were in grave danger of attack². In 1690, there were, according to Chapin, "between thirty and forty householders here³." Adams, however, puts the number at about 28⁴, but significantly enough fails to include in his list several east side dwellers who signed the covenant of February 13, 1690⁵.

At any rate, there were sufficient inhabitants on the east side of the River to begin proceedings for a separate township and the initial step was taken at a town meeting held in Wethersfield, December 26, 1689. The vote of that meeting is given herewith in full:

¹*Col. Records of Conn.* (printed copy) 1636-1665 pp. 240-241. It should be noted that this act does not apply specifically to Wethersfield but encompasses all three of the original river towns, namely Wethersfield, Windsor and Hartford, each of which originally had lands on the east side of the River.

The two hundredth anniversary of the enactment of this law provided the occasion for the bi-centennial (often incorrectly called "Centennial") celebration in Glastonbury, May 18, 1853. It seems evident that the Committee which planned this event was aware the act above referred to did not single out Wethersfield's east side residents, but selected the date, as Chapin says in *Glastonbury for Two Hundred Years*, p. 37, because they felt "[this date] forms a very appropriate and proper beginning of our independent history." Obviously the same date might also be taken to mark the beginning of the independent history of East Windsor and East Hartford.

²In 1675, John Hollister and friendly Nayaug and Wongunk Indians were authorized to build a fort for protection against hostile tribes at Red Hill, a promontory on the river bank at South Glastonbury commanding the River in both directions. *Col. Rec. of Conn.* (printed copy) 1665-1677, pp. 375, 411.

³Chapin, *Glastonbury for Two Hundred Years*, p. 50.

⁴Stiles, *Ancient Wethersfield*, 2:904.

⁵See p. 12.

"That whereas our neighbors on ye E. side of the Great River desire to be discharged from bearing their part of the charge of Public Worship here in order to the setting up of the same amongst them—this Town having considered the same, do see cause so far to grant their request, as to declare, that in case the General Court, (on their application to them on sd acc.) shall see cause to grant them on the East side of the Great River—all the lands now belonging to our Town on that sd of the River, to be a township,—and the inhabitants there shall relinquish all their common rights on this West side of the Great River as inhabitants here, reserving each man's particular right here, and each person with us reserving his particular right there on the sd East side; and also that the sd inhabitants shall continue part of this township, and shall contribute their proportion to all publick charges with us til such time as they shall have an allowed minister settled among them; then, for their comfort and convenience we are contented to consent to their request that they may be a township¹."

Two provisions of this enactment are particularly important. First, the General Court must give its consent and second, the east side residents must have an allowed, or ordained, minister "settled among them."

Shortly after this meeting, on February 13, 1690, twenty-four inhabitants on the east side met in covenant—the first required formality in the setting up of a church body. At this gathering it was agreed that the meeting house should be located at what is now the Green on the holdings of John Hubbard and Samuel Smith, who gave the land².

¹*Wethersfield Records* as cited in Chapin, *Glastonbury for Two Hundred Years*, p. 50.

²*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:7. "February 13, 1690: At a meeting of the inhabitants on the east side of the Great River belonging to Wethersfield it was agreed that the meeting house should stand upon John Hubbard's land (and) on Samuel Smith's plain. The above said Samuel Smith and John Hubbard do engage to give land convenient for the meeting house as witness our hands: Ephraim Goodrich, Joseph Smith, John Harrington, Thomas Brewer, Ebenezer Hall (Hale), John Strickland, John Hall (Hale), William House, Samuel Hall, Sr. (Hale), Patrick Streen (Stearne), Richard Treat, Thomas Treat, Richard Smith, John Hollister, Jonathan Smith, Samuel Hall, Jr. (Hale), Samuel Smith, John Hubbard, Joseph Hills, John Kilbourne, Samuel Wells, Thomas Hall (Hale), Richard Treat, Jr., William Wickham.

This is a true copy of the covenant made February the 13th, 1690. Subtracted out of the original May the 4th, 1692."

THE ACT OF INCORPORATION

May 8, 1690 is the next significant date in the chronology of Glastonbury's incorporation. On that day the General Court, meeting in Hartford, granted the petition presented by the east side group "that they may be a township of themselves". There were limitations imposed, however, by this enactment. Rather than actually setting off Glastonbury from Wethersfield, the court's decision was but an enabling act which permitted the petitioners to obtain a minister. Until such time as "they have a good orthodox minister settled among them on the east side of the Connecticut River in Wethersfield", the residents of future Glastonbury were required to pay "their full proportion to all public charges to Wethersfield."

OBTAINING THE MINISTER

There are no significant records for the year 1691, unless the vote of Wethersfield, December 23, 1691, to lay out "the breadth of our bounds" at Naubuc, a highway for the "country's use", be mentioned for the additional evidence it presents that Wethersfield did not consider Glastonbury a town in 1691, hence not in 1690².

With the permission of the General Court secured, the petitioners set about obtaining the "good orthodox min-

¹*Col. Rec. of Conn.* (printed copy) 1689-1706, p. 25. "Whereas the inhabitants of the towne of Weathersfeild, on the east side of the Conecticot River, by the consent of the inhabitants of sayd towne, did petition this Court to be a township of themselves, on the east side of the Conecticut River, and may have liberty to provide a minister for themselves, which the towne haveing granted to their neighbours on the east side, this Court see reason to grant their petition, but advise them to be cautious how they improve it, and that they shall pay their full proportion to all publique charge to Weathersfeild till they shall have a good orthodox minister settled amongst them on the east side of Conecticutt River in Weathersfeild."

²Stiles, *Ancient Wethersfield*, 1:194-195.

ister" and the search was finally rewarded when Rev. Timothy Stevens, a Harvard graduate from Roxbury, came here and began to preach April 17, 1692. (O. S.)¹ The record of town meeting votes shows that Mr. Wells (probably Samuel Wells, one of the original covenanters) received two pounds for "his journey to the Bay for Mr. Stephens and for the payment of the hire of a horse for his journey²." Mr. Stevens, however, could not be considered as "settled" here at that date as the record of a later town meeting shows³.

Soon after the arrival of Mr. Stevens, the town's name was changed from Naubuc to Glastonbury, or "Glassenbury" as it is spelled in the early records, by action of the General Court, June 22, 1692⁴.

It may seem unusual that the "town" was named before it had actually become a town, but the explanation might be that the townspeople on the east side and the members of the General Court, being of decided religious bent, felt that an English name with strong church associations would be more of an inducement to a prospective minister than a name of native origin⁵.

¹Chapin, *Glastonbury for Two Hundred Years*, p. 54.

²*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:18.

³See pages 15-16.

⁴*Col. Rec. of Conn.* (printed copy) 1689-1706, p. 76. "This Court names the towne at Nabuck over against Weathersfeild, Glassenbury."

⁵The town was named after Glastonbury in England, where the first society of Christian worshippers was established by Joseph of Arimathea who was sent by Philip, the apostle of Gaul, to preach the Gospel in Britain. It has been described as "the fountain and origin of all religion in the realm of England." (cf. *A Topographical Dictionary of England*.) The spelling "Glassenbury" continued to be used in the records until about 1786 when it was changed to Glastenbury and so written until 1870 when the town, by a vote, made it Glastonbury, the spelling by which the town is now officially known.

FIRST TOWN MEETING

On July 28, 1692, the inhabitants of newly-named "Glassenbury" held their first town meeting. The attitude of the General Court toward this unauthorized proceeding is not known but there is no record of provision having been made by the Court for the townspeople to assemble in town meeting as of this date. Although the only action taken at this meeting was to appoint a committee to treat with Mr. Stevens concerning his salary and permanent settlement among them, town officers (townsmen, surveyors, fence viewers, brander, hayward, leather sealer) were elected at a later meeting the same year, and taxes levied to pay for building a meeting house¹.

During 1692 and the first part of 1693, the people labored diligently to come to an agreement with Reverend Stevens concerning his remuneration and dwelling house. Exact transcriptions of pertinent portions of the town meeting minutes are given here so the reader may have a complete view of the interesting and involved proceedings.

It will be noted how great an effort was made to induce Mr. Stevens to stay. Ministers, in 1692, were far from plentiful and Mr. Stevens seems to have been the only available candidate. Hence it was vital that an agreement be reached with him before Glastonbury could proceed further toward separation from Wethersfield.

"Glassenbury—July 28, 1692. The inhabitants being assembled voted and granted that Mr. Stephens should Recieve of them the sume of Sixtie pounds in Currant pay according to former inguagement for his Labour among them in the worke of the ministrye for this present year.

"Att the same town meeting the Sd inhabitants did by vote unanimously declare that it was their heartye desire that Mr.

¹*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:17.

Stephens should continue and settle amongst them in the work of ministrye, and that they would lay out themselves according to the best of their abilitye for his comfortable and honeable maintenance and if he shall stay and settle as an officer in the ministry among them they would give him a good home lott and build for him a suitable dwelling house upon it. and also give him five acres of meddow land and Sam'l Hale, Sen, Jonatha(n) Smith Sen, Sam'l Hale jun, Sam'l Smith, Joseph Hill, Ephraim Goodrich and Eleazar Kimberly were chosen to be the towns committee to acquaint Mr. Stephens with the mind of the town and to treat with him concerning his settlement among them¹."

"Att a town meeting October 22 : 1692 the town voted to give to Mr. Stephens upon his settlemt as an officer among them in the ministrye, one hundred and fiftie (acres) of their undivided Land. Mr. John Hollister at the same meeting promised to give him upon his Settlement as aforesaid two acres of meddow land in the meddow called Rockie Hill meddow and Mr. Thomas Treat promised to give him two acres of meddow adjoyning to the meddow given by Mr. Hollister and Ephraim Goodrich promised to give Mr. Stephens one acre of meddow land and to joyn it if he can to the Land given him by Thomas Treat. Joseph Hill also promised to give him one acre of meddow land and Jno Kilburn halfe an acre and Thomas Hale and William Wickham Five pounds apiece in Currant pay and Thomas Bruer (Brewer) fortie Shillings. Jonathan Smith inguaged to give him halfe an acre of meddow land and John Hubbard an acre. Also Saml Smith promised to give to Mr. Stephens upon his settlement that part of his orchard which he hath formerly offered to him on condition that he would build upon it and four acres of pasture upon the South Side of his land next Millers Land and bounded upon the highway west but if Mr. Stephens will not accept of the orchard Land upon that Condition then Saml Smith promised to give Mr. Stephens two acres of Meddow Land in Lieu of the orchard Land and the said four acres of pasture Land. And Joseph Smith promised to give Mr. Stephens upon his settlement one acre of meddow land and ten acres of Samon Brook Swampland and Benjamin Smith ten acres more of the said Swampland. And at the same town meeting Joseph Hill promised to the town Sixe acres of upland for a homelott for Mr. Stephens if they would build his dwelling house upon it and Jonathan Smith promised two acres upon the same condition and Joseph Smith Sixe.

"Att the Same town meeting also the town voted to Give to Mr. Stephens upon his settlement a homelott of Sixe acres and to build a suitable house for him upon it and to give him Sixtie pounds

¹*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:15.

per annum for five years and the use of ten acres of meddow and afterwards to adde thereto as god shall enable them and also to Supply him with firewood when he shall come to keep house. And the former propositions of the town not being accepted by Mr. Stephens the town declared by vote that the sune totall of their inguagement to Mr. Stephens upon his settlement as to Grant of Lands building and annual maintenance is comprehended in the votes and grants of this present meeting¹."

"Att a town meeting December 15: 1692 . . . the town voted that a Rate should be made and money Levied for defraying the Charges (?) viz. the Charges of building the meeting house according to the account thereof given by the Committee for that worke . . . and two pounds to Mr. Wells for his journey to the Bay for Mr. Stephens and for the paymt of the hire of a horse for his journey. the town also voted at the same time that a Rate should be made and money raised for the paiment of the Sixtie Pounds due to Mr. Stephens for this year.

"Whereas the town formerly voted to increase Mr. Stephens his maintenance at the end of five years from his first Coming and to add thereunto anually as God should enable them the town apprehending that it would be now satisfying to him if they did determine what particular sune they would adde it was voted and granted by the town that they would give him over and above what was formerly inguaged the sune of ten pounds per year from the end of the said five years, during the time of his continuance among them in the work of the ministrye²."

"Att a town meeting in Glassenbury January the ninth 1692/3³: the town voted to build a dwelling house for Mr. Stephens and to begin the work with as much speed as may be—the house to be a girt house twentie feet wide and eight and twentie feet Long with a good Stack of Chimnies in it and to be well finisht both within and without or else to build for him a girt dwelling house fortie feet Long and twentie feet wide with a good Stack of Chiminies in it and finish it if Mr. Stephens will find nails Glasse and Iron worke sufficient for the whole building. Sergt. Saml Wells, Joseph Smith and John Kilburn were Chosen a Committee to carry on the whole work of building the said house that is to say to aggree with Labourers and workemen and guide and appoint their Labour as

¹*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:15ff.

²*Ibid.*, 1:17.

³The reason why so many early dates are set down as the above, i. e. January 9, 1692/3, is that, by order of the Pope in 1582, the beginning of the year was changed from March 25th to January 1, a change which was not officially recognized by Parliament until 1752, but which had been anticipated for a long time by writing dates from January 1 to March 24 inclusive as, for example, January 9, 1692/3.

need shall Require and to purchase at the town charge all materialls necessary for the said house and to have full power to act in behalfe of the town in all matters necessary for the said building untill it be finished.

"Att the same town meeting the town voted that Mr. Stephens should have four acres of the meddow Land formerly given to the town by Saml Smith and John Hubbard by way of Exchange for four acres of Land given to him by severall of the inhabitants and Lying in parcells in the Comon field, and if another acre of meddow land can be procured for Mr. Stephens then if he see cause he may have the remaind of the said Land given by the said Saml Smith and John Hubbard in exchange for it¹."

"Att a town meeting January 30th: 1692/3 the town voted to build for Mr. Stephens a girt dwelling house fortie feet long and twentie feet wide with a good Stack of Chimnies in it suitable for such a building and a good stone cellar under one end of it. Mr. Stephens finding nails and glasse sufficient and the town all other necessary iron worke. at the same town meeting the town also voted to goe forward with building the said house with as much speed as they can and to finish it by the latter end of March next come twelve month after this instant month of January. at the same time the town also voted to build a convenient porch to the said dwelling house²."

ORDINATION OF THE MINISTER

By January 30, 1693, when the details of a dwelling had been agreed upon, Mr. Stevens and his parishioners had come to terms. At the May 11, 1693, session of the General Court, permission was given as follows to ordain Mr. Stevens:

"This Court upon the petition of Mr. Kimberly in the behalfe of Glassenbury people, that they might have liberty to enter into church fellowship and that they might have there minister to be ordeyned there, the Court grants their request they attending the law in the management thereof³."

The ordination did not, however, take place immediately thereafter probably for the very good reason that the meeting house, essential for an ordination, had not

¹*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:21.

²*Ibid.*, 1:23.

³*Col. Rec. of Conn.* (printed copy) 1689-1706 p. 95.

as yet been completed. Exactly when it was finished is not known but the date is probably October, 1693¹ and it is therefore reasonable to conclude that the ordination took place soon following this date². On December 29, 1693, "a rate was granted for the defraying the necessary charges of the town about the meeting house, and the building a house for Mr. Stevens which was judged to amount to 142:18:09³." From the wording of this vote it is not clear whether the charges referred to were for *both* the meeting house and Mr. Steven's dwelling or only for the latter.

Thus, by the end of 1693 (probably by October) Glastonbury had fully carried out the provisions of the original Act of Incorporation of May 8, 1690⁴. The people had a "good orthodox minister settled among them" and he had been properly ordained in the completed meeting house. Hence it may be said that Glastonbury's existence as a distinct and separate township dates from 1693. In further support of this statement there is the vote of the townspeople themselves at the time undivided lands were being apportioned in 1714.

"Att a Generall meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Glassenbury, at Glassenbury January 27th Anno Domini 1713/14.

"Whereas by a vote of this Town, at their meeting December 25th, 1707. did grant that the undivided Land in this Town should be divided, and set out to the severall Inhabitants proportionably according to their Rates that present year Vi. as by the said vote

¹Chapin, *Glastonbury for Two Hundred Years*, p. 54.

²It is possible that the ordination and final settlement of Mr. Stevens took place prior to October 1693 as an order of the General Court, meeting in special session September 1, 1693, reads as follows: "It is also ordered that the townes of Simsbury, Glassenbury, Danbury and Windham in this rate (a special levy to send an agent to England) shall be rated according to their lists which the ministers rate was made last year by." (*Col. Rec. of Conn.* 1689-1706, p. 104). This would indicate Glastonbury's recognition as an independent township by the Court as early as September 1, 1693.

³*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:23.

⁴See page 13.

more fully may appear, and whereas the said Rates be lost, and by other inconveniences attending the same, and rendring the said method thoroly Impracticable it is now therefore by this meeting unanimously voted that some part of the said undivided or Common Land shall be divided as followeth. That is to say. This town do now by their vote Give and Grant unto the severall Inhabitants of this town (or their heirs) who were Inhabitants and house-holders in this Town when this Town first became a body Politick viz. *When the meeting house* (in which the said Inhabitants of the sd Town for the publick worship of God now meet) *was Erected, and built*¹ . . .”

Stiles also favors the 1693 date² and Chapin, while using 1690 as the year of Glastonbury's establishment, does admit that the final “perfecting” of the act came about by the building of the meeting house in 1693³.

THE FIRST DEPUTY

It is interesting to observe that during none of the years from 1690 through 1693 did Glastonbury send a deputy or representative to the General Court (which corresponds with today's Legislature or General Assembly), but at the annual court of elections held May 10, 1694 (the first such since May 11, 1693) Eleazer Kimberly's name appears among the Deputies.

At a meeting of the Court, October 12, 1693, when among other business a rate was levied for general taxation purposes, Glastonbury's name appears among “The list of persons and estates of the Colony” but the number of persons and value of their estates is significantly

¹*Glastonbury Town Records*, 1:101.

²“As that edifice (the meeting house) was built in October 1693 it need no longer be doubted that Glastonbury's existence as a township dates from October 1693; at least not earlier.” Cf. Stiles “*Ancient Wethersfield*”, 1:195 footnote).

³Chapin, *Glastonbury For Two Hundred Years*, p. 51.

omitted¹. From this it may be inferred that Glastonbury did not return a list on the grounds that taxes had been paid to Wethersfield for that year. It seems clear that one of those frequent colonial disputes about taxation was in the making as witness the following excerpt from the records of the General Court session of February 7, 1694. "This Court orders that the Secretary by his warrant shall require the Constable of Glassenbury to return forthwith to him a copy of their lists, both this year and last year list, and he to take and enter the same in the country booke and to return it to the Treasurer that he may account with last year constable for the penny rate in money and send out his warrant for the gathering the rates granted since by the Generall Court²."

That the difficulty was adjudicated to the satisfaction of all appears evident from this record made under date of May 10, 1694: "This Court by their vote granted that Glassenbury should be freed from paying their country rates ready past all except their penny rate which was to be paid in cash³."

The penny rate referred to is probably the levy made at the February 7, 1694 session for sending an expedition to Albany. Because of the vote of May 10, 1694, quoted above, it appears that Glastonbury had satisfied the court its country tax obligations had been fully paid to Wethersfield in 1693. The next year, however, when the list of estates was compiled (October 11, 1694) Glastonbury's name appears with 44 persons having estates valued at 1708£⁴.

¹*Col. Records of Conn.* (printed copy) 1689-1706 p. 106.

²*Ibid.*, p. 119-120.

³*Ibid.*, p. 128.

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 131.

Thus had Glastonbury in 1693 fulfilled the provisions of the 1690 Act of Incorporation, having an ordained minister settled in the town and having satisfied its tax obligations to Wethersfield. Further, the town exercised its right, gained in 1693, to send a representative to the next regular session of the General Court held in May, 1694 when Eleazer Kimberly became Glastonbury's first deputy.

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